Urban Sanitary Authority
Annual Report. Year 1909

15/2/10

Sect.

I now present the Annual Report for the Year ending 31st December 1909 it comprises the Urban Sanitary District of Sandwich it extends over an area of 756 acres and contains a population estimated as 3170 which is taken as the average and so used for Statistical purposes

The District is divided into four Parishes and the number of Inhabitants in each Parish is as follows
St. Peters 1088 St. Marys 1092 St. Clement 956
St. Bartholomews 34.

On referring to the Report of the Registrar (of Deaths) I find the total number for the Year is 42. fifteen of these deaths occurred in the Parish of St. Peter - twenty four in St. Marys. 2 in Ste Clements and 1 in St Bartholomews.

As regards time - 16 occurred during the first Quarter of the Year 13. in the second 7. in the third and 6 in the last. Showing as usual that the first six months of the year were by far the most fatal in this District

One death during the Year is returned as a Case of Suicide by drowning. Subtracting this from the total 42 it leaves 41 as due to disease or age during the twelve months which number yields a deathrate of 12.93 per thousand somewhat higher than the last four Years

but the reason for this is quite obvious and reflects in no way upon any unsanitary condition of the Town it may be remembered that in my last years Report I remarked that it had not been a fatal year for the aged but on analysing the causes of the 41 deaths occurring during 1909 it will be seen that Ten persons died between 80 and 90 years of age and 4 between 90 and 100 two of the latter (both females) reaching the age 95. The higher death rate of the year is therefore entirely due to this factor and apart from that the General health of the Town has been exceedingly good and in fact may be considered to have been a good average

The following table will show the number of deaths during the past 5 years

1905	—	35
1906	—	34
1907	—	35
1908	—	35
1909	—	42

The number of births during the year 1909 is given as 71 — (38 of these being males 33 females —) — This yields a birthrate rather over 22 per thousand which is a higher rate than any during the past 5 years as is shown by annexed table

Number of births during past 5 years

1905	58
1906	60
1907	48
1908	67
1909	71

The following is a Summary Extracted from Registrar of Deaths Report for the year 1909

Phthisis	3	
Other Tuberculous Disease	2	
Cancer	1	
Bronchitis	4	
Pneumonia	2	(1 being primarily Influenza)
Alcoholism	1	
Premature birth	1	
Disease + Accidents of Parturition	2	
Heart Disease	7	
Suicide	1	
Old age	10	
Chronic Hepatitis	2	
Acute Rheumatism	2	
Cerebral Haemorhage	3	
Chronic Bright's disease	1	
	42	

Five ~~Children~~ Infants died under 12 months of age during the twelve months and twenty ~~four~~ three persons 65 years of age or more. The causes of death in the five Infants is notified as 1. Pneumonia 1 Bronchitis, 2 Convulsions (probably tubercular) 1 Prematurity Cancer is stated to have caused one death and Heart Disease seven. Pneumonia two (one being primarily due to Influenza) Acute Rheumatism is responsible for two deaths and represents an average considerably higher than usual in the District as do also the 5 deaths caused by Phthysis and other tuberculous disease

The number of Notifications received of Infectious Disease during the year was one only, that being a case of Scarlet Fever it has therefore been an exceptional year as regards absence of Zymotic disease

The following shows number reported during the past 5 years

1905	9
1906.	8
1907.	15
1908	7
1909	1.

The above mentioned case of Scarlet Fever occurred at the end of September. no source of infection was known to the parents and on inspection & Enquiry revealed no local cause. The child was one of a family of seven and had recently returned

from the Hop fields, when in all probability it became infected (as has been the case in other years) the child was promptly despatched to the Isolation Hospital and there has been no extension of the disease. Some suspicious symptoms occurred in another child of the same family which necessitated close observation and as a further precaution all the children were kept away from School during the remainder of the Term, the house being thoroughly disinfected.

With the exception of the final stage of an Epidemic of measles which prevented the Board School from opening until the 6th January 1909 no disease has assumed undue proportions altho in March there was a considerable amount of sickness of an Influenza type and one death was certified as primarily due to its influence this continued well into the month of April but with the advent of May a marked improvement had taken place since which time the general amount of sickness and the deathrate have remained below the average

The weekly returns of Infectious Notifiable Diseases have been regularly sent to and received from London and the County Medical Officer at Maidstone during the year

Seven Complaints were received during 1909 by the Inspector of Nuisances - three necessitating

Inspection by the Sanitary Officer were found to be caused by defective house drains and the nuisances removed by their reconstruction under his supervision the only other case was caused by lack of cleanliness on the part of a General Dealer in allowing a collection of bones and manure to remain upon his premises

In April at the request of the Sanitary Inspector I accompanied him to one of the Slaughterhouses in the Town where we found a Sheep had been killed under somewhat Suspicious Circumstances we examined it and removed portions for further examination. The Butcher informed us he had dressed it for the owner and it was not to be exposed for Sale as it was not intended for human Consumption the Owner was immediately communicated with and came in the following morning and on the understanding that the Carcase should be immediately destroyed to the Satisfaction of the Inspector the Case was not proceeded with

The Sanitary Inspector reports that as a result of his periodical house to house Inspection during the Year he found that with the little modification the General State might be considered Satisfactory

Slaughter houses are reported as being well kept during the Year but even tho well managed their presence within a closely populated area is not desirable (even in up to date buildings) from any point of view and I think it might

well be an object for future Urban Consideration to establish a Public Abattoir - outside the Town - which procedure I feel sure would give very general satisfaction and not solely be in the interests of Public Hygiene

The condition of the Bakehouses was satisfactory they are eight in number and 25 persons employed in the works, the want of more frequent cleaning in one was the only fault found when inspected

The Scavenging was not satisfactorily carried out in 1909 and there were many Complaints a fresh arrangement has now been made by which the Street Sweeping &c is done by employees of the Corporation and a fresh Contractor engaged for the removal of House Refuse, night Soil &c by which means it is hoped that fewer complaints of irregularity (in visiting houses) will be received, than has been the case during the past twelve months. When regularly and properly carried out the System seems to work satisfactorily

The Sewers have apparently worked very well and it is probable that the heavy and frequent rainfall may have materially assisted in flushing them, but otherwise the general condition remains the same as last year

The Medical Inspection of Children in Elementary Schools was commenced this year

the Medical Officer combining the Urban with a Rural District. when necessary in Urban School Sanitary matters this Officer & myself have arranged for joint action. I have to report that the Notification of Births Act has not been adopted in this District. nor is there any Official with a Special Certificate employed to visit Slaughter houses at time of Slaughter or for meat Inspection

Samples of milk have been forwarded to the Analyst quarterly by the Police Authorities and on each occasion it has been satisfactorily reported upon

The quantity of water supplied by the Public Water ~~Supply~~ Works has been sufficient for all requirements and the Report of the Public Analyst proves it to be chemically and bacteriologically pure and safe for drinking purposes (though hard) an additional Reservoir is now in use enabling us to Store a two days Supply - The Machinery has also been reduplicated These two great improvements now leave us in a Comparatively Safe position and I believe this Action of the Town Council has been thoroughly appreciated both in the Urban and Rural Districts

I remain Sirs
Your obed't Servant
John W. Harrison
M. O. H.